

Page 4, line 4, change "preferably" to --which may occur, for example,--.

Page 4, line 5, change "and preferably" to --including--.

Page 5, line 1, change "with the" to --with the exemplary embodiment of the method of  
the--.

Page 5, line 13, change "is preferably" to --may be--.

Page 5, lines 14 and 15, change "quite preferably" to --including--.

Page 5, line 19, change "system" to --table or system--.

Page 5, line 22, change "method" to --exemplary embodiment of the method--.

Page 6, line 11, change "Besides" to --Besides the fact--.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Delete lines 1 to 14, and insert:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for manufacturing composite materials from a parent substance containing silicon nitride and metal silicide, having fixed electrical properties. The molded articles are made, virtually with their final contours, prior to a sintering operation. The parent substance containing  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  and a metal silicide is subjected to a gas pressure sintering in a nitrogenous atmosphere. The metal silicide is of the form  $\text{Me}_5\text{Si}_3$ , where Me is a metal. As a function of a sintering temperature, a lower limit of partial nitrogen pressures is selected so that  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  is stable at the lower limit and an upper limit of the partial nitrogen pressures is selected so that  $\text{Me}_5\text{Si}_3$  is stable at the upper limit. The resulting composite material is a silicon-containing composite material made of  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  and the metal silicide. The metal silicide is selected from the group of  $\text{Nb}_5\text{Si}_3$ ,  $\text{V}_5\text{Si}_3$ ,  $\text{Ta}_5\text{Si}_3$  and  $\text{W}_5\text{Si}_3$ .